

## 4A King Arthur

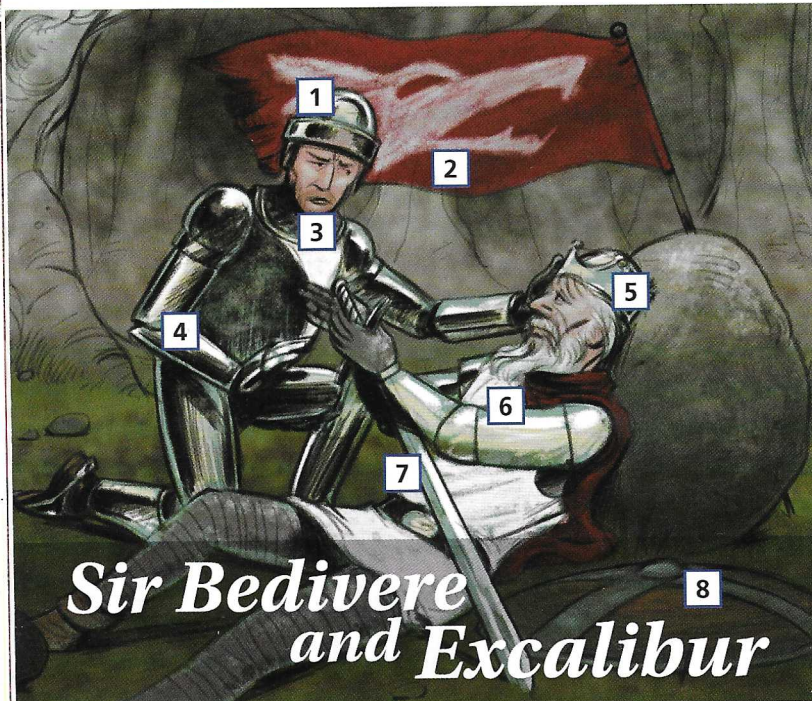
## Vocabulary

## Medieval knights

1 a Match these words to numbers 1–8 in the picture.

a king a crown armour a helmet  
a flag a knight a sword a shield

b  2.18 Listen and check.



## Sir Bedivere and Excalibur

Long, long ago there lived a famous king. His name was Arthur and he was the king of the Britons. King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table fought many battles. Arthur's last battle was against his own son, Mordred, at Camlan. The armies started fighting early in the morning and the battle lasted all day. When they finished fighting, Mordred was dead and the king was badly wounded. Only one of Arthur's knights survived – Sir Bedivere.

After the battle of Camlan, Sir Bedivere took the wounded king to the island of Avalon. The island was in the middle of a lake. Arthur knew the lake well. He remembered the day when he received his magic sword, Excalibur, from the Lady of the Lake. 'That was a long time ago,' he thought. Then he said to Sir Bedivere: 'I need to return Excalibur to the lake before I die.' But he was too weak to move, so the knight offered to take the sword. 'Throw the sword out into the middle of the lake,' said the king. Sir Bedivere promised to do it.

## Comprehension

2 a  2.19 Read and listen to the story. Match the names to the descriptions.

- |             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Arthur    | a Arthur's last battle              |
| 2 Bedivere  | b Arthur's son                      |
| 3 Mordred   | c a Knight of the Round Table       |
| 4 Excalibur | d an island in the middle of a lake |
| 5 Camlan    | e King of the Britons               |
| 6 Avalon    | f Arthur's sword                    |

b What is happening in the picture?

3 a Read the story again. Put the sentences in the correct order.

- a The knight hid the sword in the bushes.
- b Arthur gave Excalibur to Sir Bedivere.
- c Sir Bedivere didn't throw the sword in the lake again.
- d King Arthur fought Mordred at Camlan.
- e Arthur decided to throw the sword into the lake himself.
- f The king was badly wounded in the battle.
- g Sir Bedivere took the sword to the lake.
- h The king told the knight to go back to the lake.
- i Sir Bedivere took the king to Avalon.

b Why did Sir Bedivere take Excalibur to the lake? Why didn't he throw the sword in?

The knight stood on the shore of the lake and looked at Excalibur. It was such a beautiful sword. He couldn't imagine throwing it away. He decided to keep it. On the way back to the king, he stopped to hide the sword in the bushes.

'Have you done it?' asked King Arthur, when the knight returned.

'Yes, Your Majesty,' said Sir Bedivere.

The king smiled. 'Tell me,' he said. 'What did you see?'

'Nothing,' said the knight.

The king stopped smiling. 'You didn't throw the sword into the lake,' he said. 'Go back and do it.'

Sir Bedivere didn't want to throw the sword into the water, but he agreed to do it and went back to the lake. He picked up the sword and started to throw it, but he couldn't do it. He hid the sword again and went back to the king. Again the king asked him: 'What did you see?'

'Nothing happened,' he said. 'The sword just fell into the water.' King Arthur was very angry. He refused to believe the knight's story. 'I see that I must do it myself,' he said, and he tried to stand up.

**Grammar**

**Verb + *-ing* or infinitive**

**4 Read the rules. Complete the sentences from the story.**

1 These verbs are followed by an *-ing* form:

imagine finish don't mind enjoy

When they finished \_\_\_\_\_, Mordred was dead.  
He couldn't imagine \_\_\_\_\_ it away.

2 These verbs are followed by an infinitive:

want refuse agree decide  
promise forget offer need

Sir Bedivere promised \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
He refused \_\_\_\_\_ the knight's story.

3 These verbs can take either the *-ing* form or an infinitive:

like hate prefer start try love

The armies started \_\_\_\_\_ early in the morning.  
He picked up the sword and started \_\_\_\_\_ it.

4 Be careful with this verb. It can take either the *-ing* form or an infinitive, but the meaning is different:

stop

He stopped \_\_\_\_\_ the sword in the bushes.  
He stopped. Then he hid it.  
The king stopped \_\_\_\_\_.  
He was smiling. Then he stopped.

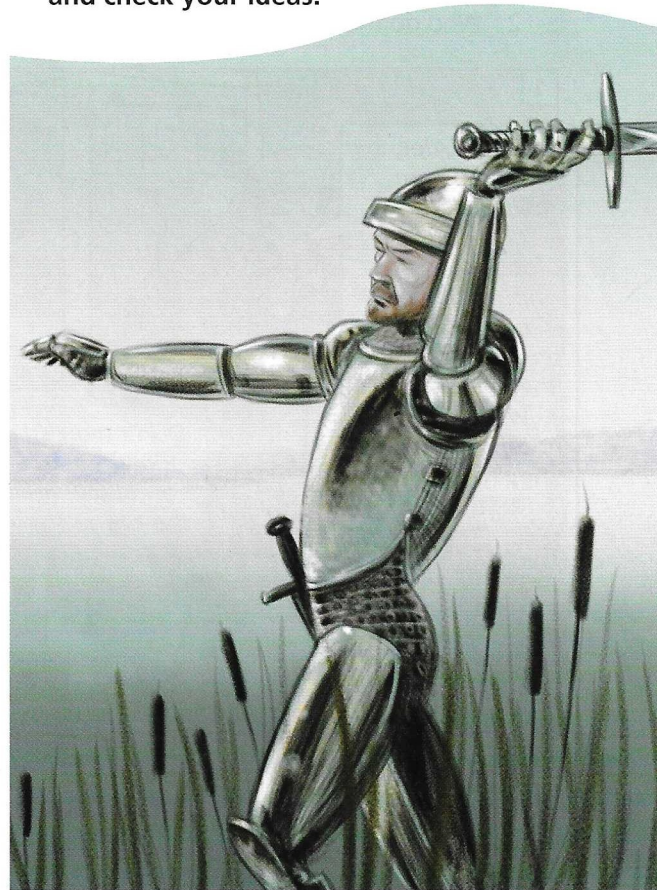
**5 Complete the sentences. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**

- Sir Bedivere wanted \_\_\_\_\_ Excalibur. (keep)
- He didn't enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ to the king. (lie)
- King Arthur tried \_\_\_\_\_, but he was too weak. (stand up)
- When Arthur first received the sword, he agreed \_\_\_\_\_ it to the lake. (return)
- When Sir Bedivere finished \_\_\_\_\_ his story, the king was very angry. (tell)
- Before he threw the sword, the knight stopped \_\_\_\_\_ at it one last time. (look)
- Did he finally decide \_\_\_\_\_ the sword into the lake? (throw)
- The armies didn't stop \_\_\_\_\_ until the evening. (fight)
- Sir Bedivere couldn't imagine \_\_\_\_\_ without the king. (live)
- Arthur promised \_\_\_\_\_ if Britain was in danger in the future. (return)

**Listening, writing and speaking**

**6 a** What do you think happened at the end of the story? Discuss your ideas.

**b**  2.20 Listen and check your ideas.



**c** Work with a partner. Close your books and retell the story to each other.

**7 a** Write sentences about your own life. Use the cues. Write something that:

- you like to do on Sundays.  
*I like to get up late on Sundays.*
- you've stopped doing.
- you've decided to do at the weekend.
- you've always wanted to do.
- you enjoy playing.
- you've promised to do.
- you don't mind doing at school.
- you sometimes forget to do.

**b** Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions from exercise 7a.

- What do you like to do on Sundays?
- I like to get up late.

# 4B The burglar



## Comprehension

1 2.21 Read and listen to the story. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who are Sweet Sue and Smart Alec trying to catch?
- 2 Who do they catch?

